From: Katherine Austin [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2026 11:47 AM
To: Public Comment Received For City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Item 19 Re AB1033

Honorable Mayor McLewis and City Council,

I am writing to you today with concern about item 19 on your agenda for 11/17/2026. As an architect with a practice in Sebastopol since 1995, my focus has been on both affordable housing and missing middle forms of housing, that address middle income families. You recently approved my design for Pacific Knolls at 7621 Healdsburg Ave, that contains 12 town homes and 12 apartments on the 116 corridor. I also was the architect for the Barlow Crossing Town Homes on Morris St. as well as many other homes throughout Sebastopol.

I have been licensed in California since 1991 and consider myself well informed on the laws attempting to increase the number and types of homes affordable to our community. AB1033 was a groundbreaking law that opens up more options for homeownership in our existing communities. It encourages a form of "gentle density" by allowing additional homes within the existing fabric of our community. I was saddened to hear that you might be reversing course on this law. This would be a tragic reversal and frankly a huge mistake. I urge you, not only in my role as a local architect, but also as a former Mayor, City Counselor and Planning Commissioner of Sebatopol, to not backtrack on this significant law.

I hope you will take my concerns to heart and understand it is coming to you from a place of love for Sebastopol. Sebastopol is the place I called home for many years and where I raised my two sons. It is ironic that I had to move to Oregon because I could no longer afford to live in Sebastopol, after the great recession. I continue to own my office there and work in Sebastopol but from my now home in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Katherine Austin, AIA, Architect

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